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Memorials

OF

1776.

BY

FRANK M. ETTING.

SECOND EDITION.

PHILADELPHIA:
W. W. Bates, Printer, 710 Sansom Street,
1873.

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PRESENTED BY

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The National Museum.

INDEPENDENCE CHAMBER.

WRITTEN ORIGINALLY FOR THE PENN MONTHLY.

IT has been well said of individuals, that there exists no stronger incentive to merit than the recollection of a long line of distinguished ancestry, revived, it may be, by a gallery of family portraits, or the preservation of family relics. The Chinese are believed always to devote a room to the perpetuation of all kinds of ancestral associations, while the English, thanks to their feudal system, still consolidate and transmit their family mementos and heirlooms.

There always have been those who scoff at that species of pride derived from fair lineage; but such raillery, in the main, is but an effort to decry a too conscious deficiency, or used as a cloak to "ape humility"—a cloak that no more conceals the true sentiments than did the assumption of his rags by the great cynic, whose real pride was plainly seen to peep through the very rents in his garments. As with individual families, so it is with nations.

We shall be told that the "genius of our institutions" is adverse to fostering the former; but surely no such objection can be raised against the latter. The most austere *Hoi-polloi-ist* will concede that the greater the pride in the past history of our country, the surer the guarantee of patriotism in the future. To this end no means more effective can be devised than the establishment of a permanent National Museum. Such a practical mode of object instruction will continue to teach to all coming generations of Americans the lesson learned in 1776, and about to be rehearsed in 1876—that in national unity lies our strength, of which State pride and local impulses are

legitimate constituent elements. There can be no segregation into a civic of that which essentially forms a federal bond—the community of the past.

Assuredly, that past should not be permitted to bury its dead, or only be revivified by spasmodic celebrations of anniversaries of one hundred years. Let it rather be made an ever-present reality by the closest personal and historical associations. Let it be an ever-living witness, in whose voice the accents of departed patriotism may continually utter, "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori."

> The man that is not moved by what he reads,
> That takes not fire at their heroic deeds—
> Unworthy of the blessings of the free—
> Is base in kind and born a slave to be.

Unquestionably, the greatest national memorial in the history of the United States is Independence Hall—the birth chamber of the Republic. Let us briefly glance at the events of the nativity.

Delegates from each colony (appointed, in some cases, by the existing legislative bodies, in others by committees of safety) had first met together in Carpenter's Hall for a defined purpose—to devise measures for uniform action in approaching their recognized sovereign by petition, and in order to obtain redress of grievances. Failing in these efforts, they returned to Philadelphia in the spring of 1775, with the anticipation of a prolonged session, when the hall used by "the representatives of the freemen of the Province of Pennsylvania" (hence the "State House,") was assigned to them for their sittings. Thus it was that in that very Hall, in June, 1775, on motion of Thomas Johnson, of Maryland, George Washington was unanimously elected commander-in-chief of the armies raised and to be raised for the defense of America.

But above all, it was here, in the Eastern, and now known as Independence, Chamber that, on the 7th of June, 1776, John Hancock occupying the President's chair, the memorable act was initiated that sanctifies the whole building. We see Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia, rise in his place. He holds in his hand instructions from the convention assembled at Williamsburg, which had been brought to him but a few days before by Thomas Nelson, Jr., himself then present as a member. Mr. Lee reads a resolution, still extant, in his own hand-writing:

Resolved ~~That~~ That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

FAC SIMILE OF THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION AS OFFERED BY MR. RICHARD HENRY LEE.

Around that room are sitting men who for weeks and months have been toiling to bring their countrymen up to this point. John Adams, Samuel Adams, Gerry, Bartlett, Chase, McKean and Whipple and Wythe,—and Hewes, who was bearing the whole weight of his colony—most probably a full representation of those in favor of the resolution; while Dickinson, too, was there, the conscientious man and pure patriot, who, like his colleagues, Robert Morris, Wilson, Willing and Humphreys, restrained by their instructions, also believed that the adoption of the resolution at that time would produce divided action throughout the country, and were hence opposed to it. A meagre house induces a postponement until the next day, and after a reference to the committee of the whole, the 1st of July is fixed as the day for further consideration, but "least any time should be lost in case the Congress agree to this resolution" a committe is appointed to prepare a DECLARATION in consonance therewith. It is not the place here to enter into a detailed review of the occurrences of this period—the full history of which has been promised, and shall, in due time, appear. Suffice it for our present purposes to recall the fact, that on the 1st of July, Benj. Harrison, the chairman, reported Mr. Lee's resolution, and had then and there referred to his committee that declaration which Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Sherman and Robert R. Livingston had unanimously agreed upon. On the 2d day of July, the resolution adopted, the United States became a nation. Its Sponsors were not yet quite satisfied with the baptismal address, which was to announce the event to the world, but finally, on the 4th of July, after anxious debate thereon, paragraph by paragraph, that, too, received the approval of all present, and was ordered to be engrossed—though the latter was not accomplished until some weeks afterwards. Thus there are two distinct groups of eminent men who have associated their names indelibly with the Declaration of Independence—first the "Actors," who debated it, and second the "Signers," who ratified it.

The councils of Philadelphia honored themselves in April 1872, by passing an ordinance for the restoration of the building where these events occurred, and for setting it apart forever in commemoration of Independence.

Prompted by the right spirit, the City Fathers had already sought, in 1854, to purchase the whole of the Peale collection of paintings, then offered at public auction. Failing in this, they bought a great number

of the historical portraits, (among which there were a dozen of the Signers,) and from time to time have continued to add to the collection.

Occasionally a public spirited citizen would present to the city a portrait, a bible, a casting, or a relic—real or imaginary—and it was at once stored in this room. The latter became a general receptacle for framed resolutions of councils, the abortive contribution to the Washington monument*—in fact, it served as a living, ever-ready response to the often embarrassing question in councils—"what *shall* we do with it?"† It was feared by some that the vehicle, yclept Washington's coach, might even find its way into this chamber, for here already his *horse* had been placed, prancing over the door, in such form and manner as might have justified the interference of the Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, whose agent—had he ever seen it—not recognizing the rider, would have unquestionably exclaimed, as is his wont, "come down my gay Peruvian, come down."

Here, also, we had Brandt, the savage above all others literally damned to eternal—infamy; Red Jacket, too, forsooth—a lot of men of whom the catalogue could say, "of liberal education and excellent moral character;" the vilest daub and caricature of General Jackson; the likeness of an obscure political agitator doing duty for Charles Lee, of Revolutionary notoriety; lithographs of volunteer refreshment saloons, etc., etc.

The first point to be attained was the removal of all portraits, relics, and other deposits not associated with the historical memories of the Hall. These, in many instances, absolutely defaced the walls, and in others destroyed the architectural beauties of the chamber.

The janitor having carefully stowed away all the relics and a great deal of trash, the portraits not required for illustration and adornment were removed to the Fidelity Safe Deposit and Trust Company, whose President had cordially offered to take charge of

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*Since forwarded to Washington City and at a juncture, when it is hoped its receipt will give renewed impetus to the completion of the undertaking.

†The very cellar was not long since used for impounding and slaughtering vagrant dogs captured in the summer season. Hon. Wm. M. Meredith, ever facile to turn to account what to others would be an interruption, had his voice drowned, on one occasion, in the midst of a ceremonial reception, by these yelping, whereupon he declared the Hall haunted by spirits of 1776, and identified the voices of Jefferson, Lee, Hancock, etc.

them. They have been admirably displayed for public inspection on the walls of the directors' room.

The room with its antique wainscoting, pillars, cornices, etc., presents to-day the same general appearance as it did during those times that did indeed try men's souls. The original chandelier still hangs there; the columns supporting the ceiling have been restored, the chair which was occupied by the President has been restored to its place on the dais; in front stands the table at which Hancock wrote, and on which the Declaration itself reposed after it was engrossed, and where one after another of the members of Congress came forward and appended his signature. Near by are two chairs with their original covering, well worn in the use of individual members of the Congress. Two more of these chairs, though unfortunately newly covered for the convenience of the sergeants-at-arms of the State Senate, have been rescued and placed on the floor. Mrs. Wm. Biddle, Mrs. E. A. Foggo, Mr. John Jay Smith and Mr. C. C. Dunn have each presented an original chair duly authenticated by long family ownership. On either side of the dais are ranged portraits of the following:

JOHN HANCOCK, the President, C. W. PEALE.
RICHARD HENRY LEE, of Virginia, the Mover of the Resolution for Independence, C. W. PEALE.
BENJAMIN HARRISON, of Va., the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole who reported the same. LAMBDIN after TRUMBULL.
THOMAS JEFFERSON, the Author of the Declaration of Independence, C. W. PEALE.
JOHN ADAMS, the Seconder of the Resolution for Independence, and the "Colossus of the Debate." C. W. PEALE.
SAMUEL ADAMS, of Massachusetts, the "Palinurus of the Republic." OUTHANK after COPLEY.
Presented by Geo. A. Simmons, Esq., of Boston, on behalf of his wife and other descendants of the Patriot:
ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON, of New York, of the Committee to draft the Declaration. PRATT after STUART.
Presented by Clermont, Robt. E. Livingston and others, the grand children:
ROGER SHERMAN, of Connecticut, another of the Committee &c.,
[Not yet supplied.]
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN. copied from the celebrated picture by MARTIN.
ROBERT, MORRIS, the Financier of the Revolution.
JOHN DICKINSON, Author of "the Farmer's Letters." C. W. PEALE.
THOMAS HEYWARD, Jr., of South Carolina. FRAZER after———
Presented by MRS. DRAYTON.
ELBRIDGE GERRY, of Massachusetts.

THOMAS McKEAN, of Pennsylvania. C. W. PEALE.
WM. WHITE,—Bishop,—principal Chaplain of the Continental Congress, C. W. PEALE.
CHARLES THOMSON, the permanent Secretary of Congress, C. W. PEALE.
JOSIAH BARTLETT, of New Hampshire, presented by his descendants.

ON THE OPPOSITE PANELS ARE TO BE FOUND:

JAMES WILSON, of Pennsylvania,	WHARTON from a miniature.
WILLIAM ELLERY, of Rhode Island,	LAMBDIN after TRUMBULL.
ABRAHAM CLARK, of New Jersey,	LAMBDIN after TRUMBULL.
WILLIAM WILLIAMS, of Connecticut,	SAWYER after TRUMBULL.
SAMUEL CHASE, of Maryland,	C. W. PEALE.
GEORGE READ, of Delaware,	SULLY after STUART.
GEORGE ROSS, of Pennsylvania,	WHARTON after WEST.
RICHARD STOCKTON, of New Jersey,	CONARROE after———
GEORGE WALTON, of Georgia,	LAMBDIN after TRUMBULL.
OLIVER WOLCOTT, of Connecticut,	" " "
JOHN WITHERSPOON, of New Jersey,	C. W. PEALE.
CHARLES CARROLL, OF CARROLLTON, of Maryland,	C. W. PEALE.
FRANCIS HOPKINSON, of New Jersey,	C. W. PEALE.
SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, of Connecticut,	C. W. PEALE.
PHILIP LIVINGSTON, of New York,	C. W. PEALE.
BENJAMIN RUSH, of Pennsylvania,	C. W. PEALE.
ARTHUR MIDDLETON, of South Carolina, Presented by the Artist.	WHARTON, after WEST.
GEORGE CLYMER, of Pennsylvania, Presented by his descendants.	MARCHANT, after———
WILLIAM HOOPER, of North Carolina,	LAMBDIN, after TRUMBULL.
STEPHEN HOPKINS,	GEO. C. LAMBDIN, after———

THE FOLLOWING ARE YET TO BE PROCURED:

Wm. Whipple, of New Hampshire; Robert Treat Paine, of Mass.: Wm. Floyd, Francis Lewis and Lewis Morris, of New York; Wm. Paca and Thomas Stone, of Maryland; George Wythe, Thomas Nelson, Jr., and Francis Lightfoot Lee, of Virginia; Joseph Hewes and John Penn, of North Carolina; Thomas Lynch, Jr., of South Carolina; Lyman Hall, of Georgia.

Spaces are also left for John Rogers, Thos. Johnson, John Jay, Henry Wisner, George Clinton, Thomas Willing, Charles Humphreys and a few others, "Actors."

The names of John Morton, Cæsar Rodney, Carter Braxton, John Hart, George Taylor, James Smith, Matthew Thornton and such others of the above, whose portraits were never taken from life, will be appropriately presented in some permanent shape.

Over the doorway through which Washington passed when he left Congress to assume those duties which earned for him his enduring title of "First in War, First in Peace, and First in the hearts of

his Countrymen," has been hung an original portrait of the *Pater Patriæ*.*

Along the surbase on each side of the President's Chair, subordinated to the general design, are the Presidents of Congress from 1774, not included in the above category, and in similar positions on the sides, portraits of the Revolutionary officers. These are arranged according to dates of commission, as follow:

ARTEMAS WARD, Major-General, June 17, 1775.
RICHARD MONTGOMERY, Major-General, December 9, 1775.
HORATIO GATES, Major-General, May 16, 1776.
NATHANAEL GREENE, Major-General, August 9, 1776.
WILLIAM ALEXANDER, LORD STIRLING, Major-General, Feb'y 19, 1777.
BENJAMIN LINCOLN, Major-General, February 19, 1777.
BARON DE KALB, Major-General, September 15, 1777.
BARON DE STEUBEN, Major-General, May 5, 1778.
WILLIAM SMALLWOOD, Major-General, September 15, 1780.
L. LEBEQUE DUPORTAIL, Major-General, November 16, 1781.
HENRY KNOX, Major-General, March 24, 1782.

CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN, Brigadier-General, September 16, 1776.
LACHLAN McINTOSH, Brigadier-General, September 16, 1776.
JAMES MITCHELL VARNUM, Brigadier-General, February 21, 1777.
JOSEPH REED, Brigadier-General, May 12, 1777.
JAMES WILKINSON, Brigadier-General, November 6, 1777.
DANIEL MORGAN, Brigadier-General, October 13, 1780.
OTHO HOLLAND WILLIAMS, Brigadier-General, May 9, 1782.

JOSEPH WARREN, Provincial Major-General.
THOMAS SUMTER, Provincial Brigadier-General.

WILLIAM AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON, Colonel, the "Hero of Eutaw."
JOHN EAGER HOWARD, Lieutenant-Colonel, the "Hero of Cowpens"
SAMUEL SMITH, Colonel, the "Hero of Mud Island"
HENRY LEE, Colonel, "Light Horse Harry."

COMTE DE ROCHAMBEAU.

NICHOLAS BIDDLE, Captain of United States Navy.
JOHN PAUL JONES, Captain of United States Navy.
JOSHUA BARNEY, Captain of United States Navy.

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*The noble idea, so nobly carried out, the preservation intact of Washington's Home on the Potomac, is due to the women of America under the auspices of Miss Ann P. Cunningham of South Carolina as Regent, assisted by a Vice Regent in each State—in Pennsylvania by (the then) Miss Lily Macalester. The latter has recently and deservedly been made Regent.

And the following Presidents of the Congress of the Confederation :

PEYTON RANDOLPH, 1774-5.
HENRY LAURENS, 1777.
JOHN HANSON, 1781.
ELIAS BOUDINOT, 1782.
THOMAS MIFFLIN, 1783. } Major-Generals February 19, 1777.
ARTHUR ST. CLAIR, 1787. }

The draft of the Declaration in Jefferson's handwriting is in this city, in the possession of the Philosophical Society, most admirably framed and adapted for exhibition. It is hoped the society will be induced to deposit this valuable relic upon the table in the Hall. In the vestibule, upon its original frame-work, has been placed the celebrated bell, which on the 8th of July, 1776, fulfilled the injunction prophetically inscribed thereon a quarter of a century before:

"PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF."*

It seemed that no opportunity could be more favorable towards perfecting this great memorial of the men and times of 1776 than the approach of the centennial anniversary—no worthier coadjutor than John L. Shoemaker. True to the public-spirited instinct of his namesake, who in 1765 affixed his signature to what we Philadelphians are fond of calling the "first Declaration of Independence," Mr. Shoemaker was sedulously laboring for the success of the centennial celebration; recognizing at once the propriety of the suggestion, he grasped the scheme, and has been unremitting in sustaining every effort to its accomplishment.

His Honor, Mayor Stokley, as well as Mr. J. H. Pugh, the efficient popular commissioner of city property, have cordially co-operated; while the presiding officers of both branches of councils, Messrs. King, Shermer, and Martin, Hall, Caven and other members of councils, have evinced much interest in the work, and contributed towards its success. Several noble-hearted citizens have already presented valuable portraits, and others have been promised. Every means will be used to make the very atmosphere of this chamber breathe forth the command so appropriately applied by a distinguished physician of Phila-

*See appendix.

delphia, on there greeting his professional friends: "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet; for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

Arrangements are being made to accommodate the Court of Common Pleas, its present chamber will then be fitted up as an auxiliary to the Hall of Independence. In itself it is an historical room, used as the colonial Supreme Court Room for nearly half a century before Pennsylvania became a State. The second story of this building contained the public banqueting hall of former days; and in one of the rooms met the Convention of 1787 to frame the present Constitution of the United States. Subsequently Peale's Museum occupied this floor. The whole building would form an admirable receptacle for the *National Museum* thus commenced. Here the different epochs of our national history can be appropriately illustrated by portraits and relics. A plan for this purpose has already been initiated by the Committee in charge of the Restoration of the Hall, which can easily be matured and accomplished; and the centennial anniversary might then indeed behold the actual realization of the picture so gloriously and prophetically foreshadowed by the Founders of the Republic themselves, in their address to the Irish, in 1775: "The golden period, when liberty, with all the gentle arts of peace and humanity, shall establish her mild dominion in this western world, and erect eternal monuments to the memory of those virtuous patriots and martyrs who shall have fought and bled and suffered in her cause."

Fellow-citizens of the United States, let us make the one hundredth birthday of the nation its *Golden* Anniversary!

FRANK M. ETTING.

THE OLD LIBERTY BELL.

BY FRANK M. ETTING.

From the American Historical Record for January, 1873.

OLD LIBERTY BELL.

So great is the power of association, that its magnetic rays may render famous, when brought to bear upon it, any object be it never so trivial in itself. Even our great Town Bell is thus *polarised* by the Revolutionary events with which it is intimately connected.

In one of the most beautiful of his experiments, Prof. Tyndall exhibited the refraction of light through water by puffing a few whiffs from a segar into the adjacent atmosphere—an exemplification of his ability *ex fumo dare lucem*. It seems possible to avail ourselves of the murky medium of the past (even that of a Bell) to evolve reflections worthy of analysis by deeper thinkers than Antiquaries or even Patriots.

In 1751, the State House at Philadelphia was approaching completion; the lower floor had already been occupied for some sixteen years, one chamber by the Supreme Court, and the other by the Representatives of the Freemen of the

Province of Pennsylvania, then consisting of one body—By order of the latter, a Committee of which Mr. Speaker Norris was the Chairman, was empowered to obtain a new Bell for the Building.

The desire for procuring bells and building steeples just at this time seems to have shown itself in religious, as well as political corporations. In this same year the vestry men of Christ church opened a subscription for this purpose, a member declaring at the Board "that there is a hearty inclination to the thing in the inhabitants of this city not only of our own church but in sundry persons of other religious Societies."[1]

It must not hastily be concluded however that Bells were then to be introduced for the first time. As early as 1712, two bells "the little bell" and "the great bell," were certainly used by the Christ Church congregation, whether suspended in a belfry or "hung in the crotch of a tree close by" seems to be undetermined; unquestionably the latter mode was adopted for the government bell, an accompaniment to official proclamations in the province at least as early as 1685. It is not improbable that this latter was brought over by William Penn himself. The earliest mention of its use is in language so quaint as to justify its "counterfeit" presentation. [See the following page.]

AND WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS.

PENNSILVANIA

By the President and Council

These are to give General Notice, That our Present Soveraign King James the Second, will be Published, in the Front Street upon Delaware River, over against the Governours Gate to Morrow Morning at the Ninth hour upon the Wringing of the Bell

Philadelphia the 11th, 5d Month 1685 — Signed by Order Richard Ingelo Cl. Concilln

Pursuant to this order the following proclamation was read, here given verbatim from the original manuscript used by the Sheriff.—

PENNSILVANIA

Philadelphia the 12th *of the* 3rd *Mo* 1685.

We the president & the provincial Counsell accompanied with the representatives of the freemen in Assembly & divers magistrates officers & other persons of note do in duty & in concurrance with our neighbouring provinces sollemnly publish & declare that James Duke of York & Albany by the decease of our late soveraigne Charles the 2d is now become our lawfull liege lord & king James the 2d of England Scotland France & Ireland & amongst other of his dominions in America of this Province of Pennsilvania & its Territorys king, to whom we acknowledge faithfull & constant obedience hartily wishing him a happy raigne in health peace & prosperity—

And so God Save the King

THO LLOYD President

Tho Holme	Jon Roades
Christo Taylor	W. Greene
Phinehas Pemberton	Jon Simpcock
Willm Frampton	Jon Cann
Wm Southbe	Willm Wood
Peter Aldricks	Tho Janney
Wm Darvall	Jon Barnes
Luke Watson	Ricd INGELO

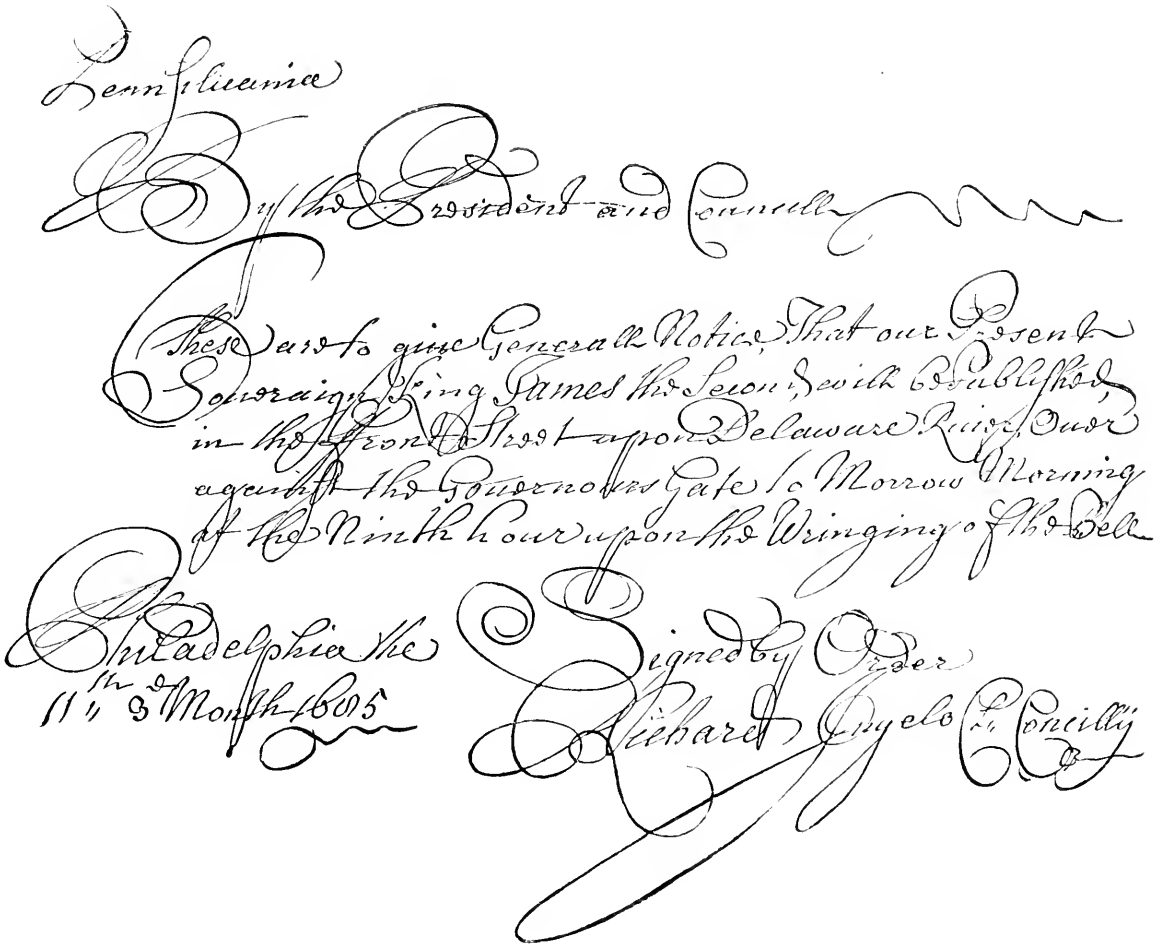
Clark Counsell

This Province Bell was most likely transferred to the cupola of the Court House or "Towne Hall" on its erection in 1705-6 at Second on High Street. It is its successor whose history is attempted.

The original letter books of Isaac Norris cannot now be found but fortunately his descendant Joseph Parker Norris, had procured copies, and it appears from these that Robert Charles, then in London, was commissioned November 1st, 1751, to procure a good bell of about two thousand pounds weight, at a cost of about £100 sterling; it was to be cast by the best workmen, to be examined carefully before it was shipped and to contain "in well-shaped letters round it," *By order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, for the State House in the city of Philadelphia* 1752, and underneath *Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land to all the inhabitants thereof. Levt.* XXV. 10.

The Bell duly arrived at the end of August, 1752, in apparent good order,

[1] Rev. Dr. Dorr's, History of Christ Church.



Pennsilvania

By the President and Council

These are to give Generall Notice, That our present
Soveraign King James the Second, is this day Proclaimed,
in the Front Street upon Delaware River, Over
against the Governors Gate to Morrow Morning
at the Ninth hour upon the Wringing of the Bell

Philadelphia the
11th 3d Month 1685

Signed by Order
Richard Ingelo Deputy Secretary

out a few days afterwards, notwithstanding all the cautionary instructions given, "the superintendents had the mortification to hear that it was cracked by a stroke of the clapper without any other violence as it was hung up to try the sound." An effort was then made to send it back by Capt. Budden,[1] who had brought it over in the "Matilda," but he could not take it on board—"upon which" Mr. Norris writes "two ingenious workmen undertook to cast it here, and I am just now (March 10, 1753,) informed they have this day opened the mould and have got a good bell, which I confess pleases me very much that we should first venture upon and succeed in the greatest bell cast, for aught I know, in English America."

This American bell was hung up in its place early in 1753, as will appear by the following bill:

PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 17, 1753.

The Province,

To EDMUND WOOLEY, Dr.

For sundrys advanced for raising the Bell Frame and putting up the Bell.

A peck Potatoes, 2s. 9d: 14 lbs. Beef at —4s. 8d; 4 Gammons, 36 lb. at 6d.—18s.	£1	6	5
Mustard, Pepper, Salt, Butter.	0	2	0
A Cheese, 13 lb. at 6d.—6s. 6d; Beef 30 lb. at 4d.—10s; a peck Potatoes, 2s. 7d.	0	19	1
300 Limes, 14s. 3 gallons Rum, of John Jones, 14s,	1	8	0
36 Loaves of Bread, of Lacey, ye Baker,	0	9	0
Cooking and Wood, 8s. Earthenware and Candles, of Duchee, 13s. 4d.	0	11	4
A barrel of Beer, of Anthony Morris,	0	18	0
	£5	13	10

Errors excepted, ED. WOOLEY.

"The mould was finished in a very masterly manner and the letters I am told are better than in the old one. When we broke up the metal our judges here generally agreed it was too high and brittle, and cast several little bells out of it, to try the sound and strength. We fixed upon a mixture of an ounce and one half of copper to one pound of the old bell and in this proportion we now have it."

It was soon found however that the composition of this bell was defective, *too* much copper having been added; "so many witticisms were made thereon by the towns people that Pass, (a native of the Isle of Malta) and a son of Charles Stow who were the persons who originally undertook to recast the Bell, and who had made the mould in a masterly manner and run the metal well," insisted upon making another essay, and in June, 1753, their second Bell was placed in position in the State House steeple. This event was duly chronicled in the papers of the day.[1]

There seems to have existed a contrariety of opinion as to the acceptability of this second attempt, but as far as can be ascertained the Bell continued to be used without any further effort to amend its sound. Thus it was that on Monday the 8th day of July, 1776, (*not* on 4th)[2] at

[1] This same mariner also brought over gratuitously, the bells for Christ church, which in consequence were always made upon his arrival to chime forth their greetings and thanks.

[1] The following is from the Maryland Gazette of Thursday, July 5, 1753.

Philadelphia, June 7th 1753. Last week was raised and fixed in the State House steeple, the new great Bell, cast here by Pass and Stow, weighing 2080 lbs. with this motto, "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof—Lev. xxv. 10.

Extract from the "Centenary Memorial."

[2] "Congress did not authorise the official promulgation of Independence till the next day, (5th)—It sat usually with closed doors, its members pledged to secrecy—so important a step as a severance of the ties which connected the Colonies with the mother country could not have been agitated and acted upon without admitting the general public into a knowledge of the fact, apart from which it was wished and indeed designed, as has already been shown, to predicate the action of the federal Congress, upon the expressed wishes of the individual Colonies. In the correspondence of the day accordingly on this subject, we do not find the usual reticence; delegates did not hesitate in their familiar letters both to prognosticate the event in June, but also immediately after the action of July 2nd—the really important day,—to announce

12 o'clock at noon, this very Bell rang out to the citizens of Philadelphia, the glad tidings, that a new nation had a few days before sprung into existence, proclaiming, in language understood by every ear, ALL MEN ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL.

This fulfilment of that portion of the text inscribed upon its surface has been celebrated in prose and in verse. Whether the result of a "coincidence" only or whether an inspiration induced Mr. Speaker Norris, thus to baptise his State House Bell would seem a mere choice of words determinable by one's stand point, but certain it is that the Divine command to which reference is thus made is about now to be obeyed to the letter.

AND YE SHALL HALLOW THE FIFTIETH YEAR AND PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF: IT SHALL BE A JUBILEE UNTO YOU.—Lev. XXV. 10.

Such in full are the words of Holy Writ, such the Handwriting on the Wall.

We consult the oldest inhabitant, we scan the records of the day in vain for any especial notice of the first fiftieth birth day of the Nation, but the second its golden anniversary is about to be a "Jubilee" unto us and unto all men.

Honor be to that man who made the first move whether he be familiar with the scriptural injunction, or the unconscious instrument in the hands of His Maker.

For full fifty years as nearly as can be ascertained, our Liberty Bell continued to celebrate every national anniversary, and then—it cracked, it had performed its mission and was mute forever.

Its vicissitudes had however been many: when the American forces in 1777, were about to leave Philadephia, the Bell (and those of Christ church, its coadjutors in announcing Independence, shared its fortunes) was taken down by the Commissary and transported to Allentown to prevent its falling into the hands of the British, who were then about to occupy the city.

Though brought back to town after the evacuation it does not seem to have been restored to its original place in the old steeple. The latter made of wood had been for some time in a state of decay, and being at last considered by the Assembly in a dangerous condition was ordered in April, 1781, to be taken down.

"The heavy Fraim whereon the Bell used to hang," was lowered into the brick tower where it still remains. The tower was plainly though sufficiently and effectually covered for the preservation of the building and surmounted by a slender spire or point.

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the fact as the most memorable epoch in the history of America, a day to be celebrated throughout all time. Still it was not till the 5th that it was "Resolved that copies of the Declaration be sent to the several Assemblies, Conventions and Councils of Safety and to the several commanding officers of the Continental troops, that it be proclaimed in each of the United States and at the head of the army."

These "copies" were printed broadsides signed by John Hancock, as President, and attested by Charles Thomson, as Secretary.

In Philadelphia, pursuant to this resolution duly laid before the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania on Saturday 6th July, it was ordered by that body —besides communicating with other counties of the State.—

"That the Sheriff of Phila. read or cause to be read and proclaimed at the State House, in the city of Philadelphia, on Monday the 8th day of July, instant at 12 o'clock at noon of this same day, the Declaration of the Representatives of the United States of America, and that he cause all his officers and the constables of the said city to attend the reading thereof.

Resolved that every member of this Committee in or near the city be ordered to meet at the committee chamber before 12 o'clock Monday, to proceed to the State House, where the Declaration of Independence is to be proclaimed."

The Committee of Inspection of the city, and Liberties were requested to attend.

We have ample evidence that this programme was literally carried out. That the Declaration was read and proclaimed from the stage, the popular rostrum of the day, which had been erected in the State House yard by the Philosophical Society near its Hall, to observe the transit of Venus. That it was read by John Nixon, a relative of Robt. Morris, and a prominent member of the Committee of Safety, that a vast concourse of people greeted it by loud cheers. That the constituted authorities were present, including a number of the Delegates to Congress, and "the bells rang all day and almost all night even the chimes (Christ church) chimed away."

The royal insignia of authority were at the same time removed from the Court Room in the State House and duly burnt.

Immediately in front of the spire on the main roof, the Bell itself was suspended with a slight covering or shed built over it as is seen in Birch's familiar views of the State House. The Bill for this work is also extant and may interest the curious:

"*Mr. Thomas Nevell,*"
for the State House. 1781.
To JOHN COBURN, Dr.

July 16—To sundry hands getting down the Old Steeple, and getting up the new one, getting up the Bell, and fixing of it,	£12	00	00
To the two falls and blocks and Crab getting the Old Steeple down and the new up, and the Bell,	8	00	00
	£20	00	00

Note—This is the Rigger's bill against Nevell the Carpenter."

The 4th July, 1828, was celebrated by the completion of a new steeple, made to resemble the original as nearly as circumstances would admit; these circumstances were the placing therein a clock with four faces made by Lukens, and a new bell without a clapper, upon which the clock was to strike the hours by means of a hammer—another hammer to be worked by machinery for fire alarm?

I may add that the present bell which was cast by J. Wilbank, of Philadelphia, was completed and placed in position on 11th September, 1828. It is stated that "the dimensions of this bell were scientifically calculated previously to being cast, and so accurately that the weight was in excess only 75 lbs. its total weight being 4275 lbs. and cost $1,923 75."

This vaunt however is not sustained by the estimate submitted in advance to Councils, as its weight was to be 4,000 lbs. still as the increased, over the intended, weight of the original bell was but eighty pounds, it would not appear that our more modern bell founder could plume himself on any progression in "scientific calculation" in the intervening seventy-five years.

The old Bell hereupon transferred to the tower was long permitted to remain in dignified retirement, and after a futile effort to restore its sound[1] by enlarging the *causes* of its dissonance, it was stored in Independence Chamber elevated upon a carved pedestal, its tongue uprooted and surmounted by a stuffed eagle

It is now about to be placed in the vestibule of the Hall properly installed upon its original framework, and full in view of the spot it has contributed to consecrate.

Thus embalmed may it always be permitted to remain a living witness to the fulfilment of its own prophecy, as well as a perpetual MONUMENT to its own deeds.

CHASE & TOWN, 142 SOUTH FOURTH ST.
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